

U.U.&you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 50, No 7
March 2016

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
5500 Inglis Street
Halifax NS
B3H 1J8

902-429-5500
uuchurch@eastlink.ca
uuch.ca

Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Office Hours
Tues, Wed, Fri 10-3
Cell 902-229-9239

Sandra Jamieson
Office Administrator
Office hours
Mon 11-3, Wed, Fri 9:30-3

Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

David Ballum-Haftka
Interim RE Director

Molly Hurd
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sylvia Mattinson
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

Theme for March -- Renewal

March 6

Presenter: Dr. Sultan Darvesh; Service Leader: Louise Malloch

A physician's perspective on Alzheimer's Disease

Dr. Darvesh is a behavioural neurologist and trained organic chemist with interests in medicinal chemistry. His research focus is the development of therapeutic and diagnostic agents for Alzheimer's disease.

March 13

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Wynne Jordan

The limits of renewal

Nothing lasts forever, including a human life. When renewal is no longer a reasonable expectation in our lives, how do we give meaning to it all?

March 20

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistants: Marilyn Shinyei

Making room for renewal?

In nature, renewal requires destruction and death. Forest fires are required to renew the forest, the very ground beneath our feet must slip back into the mantle of the earth in order to be recycled and renewed. What might you destroy in order to make room for renewal in your life?

March 27

Presenters and Service Leaders: Martha Wilson and David Ballum-Haftka

To know and be known: a special Easter service

UUCH is a place of community and sharing where, ideally, we feel free to be ourselves. As we come together to celebrate spring and all its hope in this place that's so meaningful to us, how well do we know one another? Perhaps better than you realize. A very special intergenerational service, and one you will not want to miss.

Our mission is to provide a community that nurtures personal and spiritual growth, practices inclusiveness, celebrates diversity and affirms individual and collective commitment to community service and social justice.



The Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

Compassion is the doctrine of our church, the quest for truth its Sacrament, and Justice its prayer. To grow in understanding through dialogue and freedom, to support each other's dance with life, to engage the Earth in peace, to the end that we speak ourselves into Community and hear each other into being. Thus do we covenant with each other and with the Universe.

March 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 4:45-6:15 After Choir	3 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	4	5
6 9:30 am Music 12 noon Worship Committee	7	8	9 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	10 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	11	12 Hike: Crystal Cres See p. 4
13 9:45 am Music 12 pm Potluck welcome for Syrian family	14	15	16 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	17  9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 6:30 Board meeting	18	19 3-5 pm DUP
20 9:45 am Music 12 pm Humanist Group	21	22 10 am Newsletter deadline	23 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	24 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 7 pm Theme Salon on Renewal	24	26
27  9:45 Music (upstairs) 12 pm Intro to UUism with Rev. Norm	28	29	30 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	31 Early bird deadline to register for CUC ACM		

**Potluck welcome for our Syrian family
March 13th, following the service**

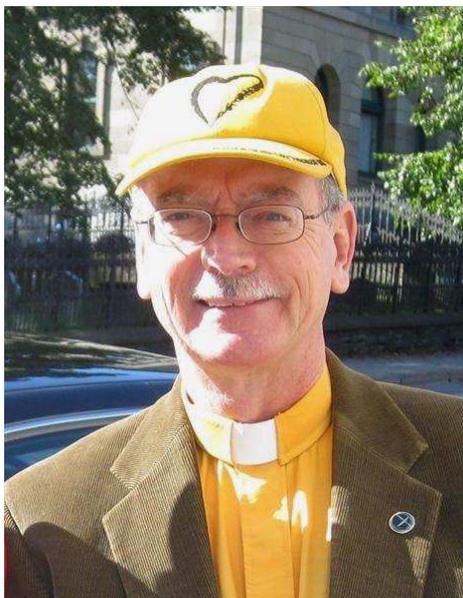
COME ONE, COME ALI! This will be our first opportunity to collectively welcome our new family. All are invited: members, friends, and everyone associated with our sponsorship group. As you are able, **please bring ready-to-serve potluck food to share.** We expect the usual great variety of dishes and accompaniments – and music and joy abounding. Let's show our new family a true UU (and Canadian) welcome!

UUCH Refugee Sponsorship Group



Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday, March 13th.
Remember to set your clocks forward the night before!

Minister's Notes



Renewal... our aspiration?

After some 55 years in the same building, your board is considering a vision of the future. Ironically, our theme for this month is Renewal, selected because of the annual renewal that begins this time of year with the spring season. That got me thinking about the difference between renewal in an individual life, and renewal in a context of nature and organizations and societies.

It is the nature of the individual human condition that we are limited by our mortality and individuality and at the same time, we are part of the eternal struggle of life, engaged in the unlimited vision for human progress. There are very clear biological limits on our ability as individuals to renew ourselves. We are all growing older, our desires and needs are changing, we may even dislike the changes, the manifestations of renewal, that we see around us. But there is no stopping the renewal around us, and that is a very good thing.

This month as we tackle the theme of Renewal, I am turning my thoughts away from what I can do to renew things in my own life, to questions of how I can be an agent for renewal in our community and our society. It is unquestionably true that the best way to improve your own joy in living is to lose yourself in the process of helping others. This same principle applies to the idea of renewing your spirit...

it is best done by shifting your focus from what you need, to what others need, to what our community and our society needs for its renewal.

If we are going to renew our society, it will not begin with people of my generation making changes to benefit their own lives. It will require that the youngest members of our society be raised in an environment that encourages the healthy growth of their spiritual and intellectual capacities. The role of my generation should be to promote renewal through nurturing those who are coming behind. It is the most obvious and intractable of problems that our society focusses on individual freedom for those who already have, in the face of economic and social disparities that literally stunt the intellectual and spiritual growth of our only hope for renewal, many of whom do not have. Over twenty percent of Nova Scotia children are living in poverty, and we accept that as somehow the cost of our freedom.

Ongoing discussions of the future of our church building provide an opportunity to reflect on this paradox. Should members of the congregation be concerned with making our religious home more comfortable for present members? This is hardly a vision of renewal. Instead, the present members of the congregation, desiring to see renewal in our midst, need to be thinking about and supporting the growth of those who will be following us. We need to be creating a legacy that will provide the resources to sustain continuing renewal after we are gone.

If we believe in the importance of the message of Unitarian Universalism, our Seven Principles, our aspiration to celebrate diversity in peace and joy, then we need to do some serious thinking about how our building speaks to that mission. Our building is our single biggest fiscal resource. How can we use that to provide for renewal of Unitarian Universalism, for spreading our good news!

There are hard biological limits on opportunities for renewal as individuals. But we have unlimited and exciting opportunities to participate in the renewal of Unitarian Universalism in Halifax... opportunities for a legacy that can give our lives meaning and add to the intellectual and spiritual growth of the larger community that will outlast us as individuals.

Renewal is a small word with big aspirations...

Rev. Norm Horofker

Hike: Crystal Crescent Beach to Pennant Saturday, March 12

The March hike will be from Crystal Crescent Beach to Pennant Point. The hike starts on a graded trail and boardwalk that leads to Third Beach. Beyond Third Beach the trail is unimproved but is generally dry; however, there are two or three streams and bogs to cross. This is early in the hiking season so we may encounter winter storm damage to the trail.



UU hikers on this trail last April.

Meet at the church at 12:30 or at the second parking lot at Crystal Crescent Beach at 1 pm. The gate across the Crystal Crescent access road may be locked; park along the road and we will meet at the gate.

Call me if you want to arrange a pickup on Herring Cove Road. If you get lost or are running late, you can reach me at 902-483-4731 before 12:30 or after 1 pm.

Allyn Clarke



Spring Auction — April 10 & 17



March is now upon us—time to do more than just think about the auction!

What beautiful things are lurking in your closet begging to be outed? Items should be like-new with a minimum value of \$20. You are now welcome to bring things in to church any Sunday in March.

Leave them under the pew with your name attached and receive an in-kind tax receipt for the amount of the final bid.

If your items have been sitting on a top shelf for eons, please dust or wash them before bringing them in.

Also think about special skills or services you could offer,

Please email me with your offers or to request pick-up of items.

Marilyn Shinyei
marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca



The Caring Column



Laura Anne Hody, long time active member of the church, died February 9th at the VG Site, QEII in Halifax. She had been diagnosed with cancer just one week before. Her wife, Eileen Ross and other loving family and friends were with her. We miss her smile and laugh and warmth. She was a friend to many in the church and always made new people feel welcome. A celebration of her life will be held in the spring, her favourite time of year.

We send our condolences to **Paul and Margaret Galbraith** on the deaths of his aunt Doris Mulligan and his niece Carolyn de Wit who coincidentally both died on January 25th. Doris lived in Listowel, ON and was in her 89th year. Carolyn de Wit was 32 and lived in Norwich, ON. Paul and Margaret were able to be there to attend both services.

Rev. Norm recently visited **Georges Merinfeld** and, using Skype, helped Georges connect with his sister in Brussels, Belgium. They enjoyed a wonderful long conversation in French. Thank you, Norm. I too recently spoke with Georges; he asked me to tell everyone that he misses his friends at the UU Church and hopes to be back to church soon.

Mary Ellen Onno

UUCH Refugee Sponsorship Update

They have arrived!

Sharifa and Anwar came first, on February 12th at 4:20 pm on a bitterly cold wintry day. A group of the refugee sponsorship committee, mostly UUs including our minister Norm Horofker and his wife Janet, two large welcome signs, one in Arabic, the other in English, flowers, smiles and music, the Canadian version of “*This land is your land, this land is my land*” sung by those present to Norm's ukulele were there to greet them. The young and the old, the hale and the frail, all turned out as you can see in Avard's photographs on the next page. It was a moment of happiness and fulfillment for all of us.

Noor, Diyaa, toddler Sarah and infant Lona, bundled in her mother's arms, arrived one week later on February 19th at about 8pm. Again a joyful reception committee, this time including Sharifa and Anwar in the waiting crowd. Note Sharifa reading the words to “This Land is Your Land”. In another photograph, little Maya Blair hands flowers to Noor, while Andy Blair's wife Claudia de las Fuentes, holding their baby Sarah, and the rest of us look on.

Potluck to celebrate their arrival

We are preparing for a great celebration of welcome on Sunday March 13th after the service. The notice on page 2 has more details. There may be emails going out as well as the date nears.

Congratulations and good wishes to Amira Alkasem, a member of our refugee sponsorship group, who became a Canadian citizen on Wednesday, February 17th.

Future plans

For now, Sharifa, Noor and Diyaa and their little ones, are staying at the 3-bedroom apartment on Glenforest Drive so beautifully furnished by our group. In April, or as soon thereafter as feasible, the family will split into two separate apartments, with Sharifa, Anwar and Nawras staying at the original location, and Diyaa and Noor with their children moving to another apartment.

*Barbara Harsanyi, Margaret Galbraith
and Marilyn Shinyei
UUCH Refugee Sponsorship Group*

Welcome, Sharifa, Anwar, Noor, Diyaa, Sarah and Lona!



Feb 12, UUs awaiting Sharifa & Anwar's arrival



Nawras (Dal pre-med student) greets his mom, Sharifa



Feb 19, awaiting the arrival of Diyaa, Noor, Sarah and Lona.
L-R: Sylvia, Sharifa, Anwar and her brother Nawras



Diyaa, far left; Nawras greets his niece Sarah being held by grandmom Sharifa



Maya Blair presenting Noor with flowers



Noor & baby Lona, her husband, Diyaa

Photos by Avard Woolaver

A UU weekend in Vancouver May 20 - 22



UBC Campus, site of CUC's 2016 Annual Conference and Meeting

If you've never been to a national conference of our church, don't miss the chance to attend the Vancouver one on the Victoria Day weekend, May 20-22. Spending a weekend with Unitarians from across Canada is an unforgettable experience!

This year's conference is at the gorgeous University of B.C. campus, and accommodation in residences there will be as low as \$45 a night – at this low price you get your own room, but share a bathroom and common room with five other attendees. There are also fancier rooms.

Conference organizers are also hoping to find lots of Vancouver members who are willing to billet conference visitors—a great way to keep costs down and connect with other Unitarians.

Early bird registration is now open with a \$275 adult registration fee till March 31st (\$300 after that). Subsidies are available to assist you in attending the conference. Please apply sooner rather than later; early bird deadline ends March 30th! Please allow a 3-week processing period. For more information email subsidies@cuc.ca.

The CUC Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 20th is part of the weekend, so consider being a **UUCH delegate** to this meeting.

Conference 2016 will focus on: better connections among UUs, greater public awareness, and deepening spirituality – on **Bolder Ways of Being**. Full details of this great event at: <http://cuc.ca/conference-2016/> (Thank you to Jane Ebbert, board member, Canadian Unitarian Council, for this promotion piece).

Submitted by:

Glenda Butt, President
Canadian Unitarian Council

How to make a banner pole

What is a banner pole and why do you need one?

At the beginning of each CUC conference, congregations take part in a Welcome Ceremony. This includes a banner parade with each congregation bringing their banner to be held high and paraded. Hence the need for a banner pole – so you can show off your congregation's banner and proudly claim your place in the parade of CUC member congregations! Find instructions for making a banner pole at cuc.ca, under Events.

Also to be found at www.cuc.ca...

- The entire conference program.
- Annual General Meeting information.
- What delegates need to know.
- More accommodation details.
- And much, much more.



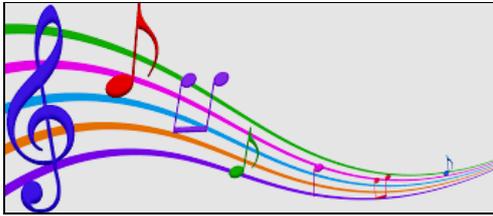
Indigenous Reconciliation Curriculum Selected

Educating for Change: Transforming Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Relations has been selected as this year's first Northern Lights recipient. *Educating for Change* is developing a multi-age curriculum exploring Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation for Canada's colonial history.

Northern Lights is a program where Unitarians from across the country sign up to support a selected project once or twice a year. (For more information, go to cuc.ca/northern-lights.)

Current donors from across the country will soon be notified of this year's selection, and asked to send in their donations, which will be added to the amount already raised by *Educating for Change*. Donations to this project can be made online at *Educating for Change* or cheques can be sent to the Canadian Unitarian Council at 400-215 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON M5T 2C7, with "Northern Lights" in the memo line.

Music Montage



*“Music is wonder, an alchemy of art,
love's pure enchantment,
communion for the heart!
From chants to psalms, from jazz to Brahms,
no soul may stay at rest.
For starry choir in sky afire we'll sing,
joined with them in anthem blessed.”*
~ Mark L Belletini

March's 'Singing as We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for March is #130 O Liberating Rose. This month's theme is Renewal. Often, for me, renewal first requires some form of freeing up, letting go, or creating space. That is why this hymn stood out as a good choice. The lyrics talk about four different kinds of liberation. My favourite verse is the third: “O liberating Song whose echo now we sing, your lyric, swelling line rekindles strengthening. Your harmonies portray the time when seeds we sow shall bloom sublime: you sign the whole and hope of life.” This hymn speaks to me of renewal!

Monthly Music Projects

To participate in the March 6th Music Project, attend a 9:30 am rehearsal on that day for the final run-through.

Starting on Sunday, March 13th we'll be preparing for the next month's Music Project, which will be presented April 10th. The theme for April is 'Revelation'.

Rehearsal opportunities for the April 10th Music Project are:

- Sunday, Mar 13th, at 9:45 am
- Sunday, Mar 20th, at 9:45 am
- Sunday, Mar 27th, at 9:45 am (upstairs)
- Sunday, Apr 3rd at 9:45 am
- Sunday, Apr 10th, 9:30 am, final run-through

Happy month of spring!

Deborah Wiggins

Music Director

uuchmusic@yahoo.ca

902-463-0988

Religious Exploration

for children at UUCH



Dear visitor or newcomer...

Are you and your family new to the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax? Are you wondering what we can offer your child, or children?

These are the beliefs we teach our children:

- We believe that each and every person is important
- We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly
- We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together
- We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life
- We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them
- We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world
- We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things



P.S. We have lots of fun too!



CANADIAN CONSEIL
UNITARIAN UNITARIEN
COUNCIL DU CANADA

Let me start on a light note. Sampling life in Belize (south of Mexico on the Caribbean) for a month was a great excursion into the rainforest (very close to the equator), the world of the ancient Maya civilization and the underwater world of tropical life with a reef and islands lining the entire coastline. We were searching for the breeze and engaging with the kind helpful Belizeans with the many beautiful smiling children. They were all of such diverse backgrounds and languages, although English is the country's first language. There were a few gasps along the way. Families having to pay out-of-pocket for children to attend high school, no training for bus drivers, resorts of foreign owners paying minimal property tax, every expenditure for tourists based on the US dollar, and virtually no accessibility for physically challenged persons on streets and sidewalks, to mention a few.

The other major observation was the plethora of religious denominations in such a small country, despite the predominance of the Roman Catholic faith, as in many Central and South American countries. There were ScotiaBanks in every nook and corner but no UU churches—as I move on to CUC matters.

CUC Board update

Vice-president Keith Wilkinson, Executive Director Vyda Ng and I met in late December to discuss the January agenda and all went as planned with the great teamwork of this CUC Board. The most time-consuming staff event of the CUC year, the AGM & ACM, is foremost in mind as we prepare to connect, network, learn and approve important decisions in Vancouver in May. See the ACM submission in this newsletter for more details.

Other highlights

- Due to staff April Hope's tireless efforts, 38 of our approximate 50 congregations are sponsoring Syrian refugees.
- After congregational and other UU community response is received, a new UU Vision will be presented to AGM delegates for approval.
- For the first time delegates will be able to participate in the AGM off-site. More information will be distributed as the process is fine-tuned.
- In the absence of any new resolutions this year, updates will be presented at AGM on current Action Plans in progress.
- Finances and sustainability are critical in these times. Hence a CUC revised budget for 2016 and 2017 will be proposed at the AGM. Two Board members are working on a Fundraising Plan to offset decreasing Annual Program Contributions and to increase revenues overall.

Ending on a happier note, we were recently delighted to hear that the new federal government has discontinued the "political" audits of charities. Charities will still have to adhere to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regulations and may be subject to "random" audits. The CUC board still awaits the final word on the CRA audit completed in May 2015.

Onward and upward,



*Glenda Butt, President
CUC Board of Trustees*



Reminder

**The Ballroom Gallery presents
Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!
The Caring and Sharing Art Show
*The Kindness to Strangers Art Show***

April 3 – May 29, 2016

See the February newsletter for more details.

Keep it simple – have fun with it!

And don't forget to sign up on the sheet in the church entrance!

Bring: Sunday, April 3rd at noon for hanging.

Pick up: Sunday, May 29th at noon take-down.

Ella Wilson



Sunday Service Volunteers

March 6

Greeting Cynthia Connor
 Anne Knight-Gorman
 Ushering Andy Blair (e), Janet Horofker (l)
 Kitchen Devin M., Stephen Butler (set-up)
 Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
 Audio Devin Murphy
 Library TBF

March 13

Greeting Tracy Boyer and helper
 Wietske Gradstein
 Ushering Wendy Ozon (e)
 Dean White, Shripad Pendse (l)
 Kitchen Louise Malloch, Stephen B. (set-up)
 Dean White (clean-up)
 Audio Avard Woolaver
 Library Anne Knight-Gorman

March 20

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
 Ushering Eileen Ross (e), Sylvia Mattinson (l)
 Kitchen Nick B-J, Stephen Butler (set-up)
 Stephen Butler (clean-up)
 Audio Nick Baros-Johnson
 Library Alison Chipman

March 27

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
 Ushering Wendy Ozon (e)
 Sylvia Mattinson, Shripad Pendse (l)
 Kitchen Nick B-J, Stephen B. (set-up)
 Kathy Spencer (clean-up)
 Audio Nick Baros-Johnson
 Library Shripad Pendse

**To join the Sunday Service Support Team,
 please contact Wietske Gradstein, 902-835-9272.**

To these most wonderful people, we say ...



Notes for your 2016 church directory

CONNOR, Cynthia: Address should read
 209-5293 Green Street.

LEHR, Brian: Email address should read:
 brianlehr9@gmail.com.

Add returned member:
 COVINGTON, Nancy, Dr. 902-479-3953
 nancy.covington@ns.sympatico.ca

Add new friend:
 YOUNG, Margot
 902-443-8887
 margotyoung@gmail.com

Do you have your 2016 church directory?

The 2016 church directory is out and available to members and friends who are 'in the book'. If you have not yet picked up your copy, be sure to ask for it next time you are in church. If you are unable to pick it up, we can mail it to you.

Email uuchurch@eastlink.ca
 or call 902-429-5500



The deadline for submissions
 for the April newsletter is
10 am, Monday, March 21st.

Please submit to both
braeside@eastlink.ca
 and
uuchurch@eastlink.ca

**Sorry. Yesterday
 was the deadline
 for all complaints.**



Happy Easter!
March 27th